Amendments to the Specification

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 31, line 3, with the following amended paragraph:

Primer, promoter-primer and anchor oligonucleotides described above and throughout this specification may be prepared using any suitable method, such as, for example, the known phosphotriester and phosphite triester methods, or automated embodiments thereof. Oligonucleotides of the invention can be synthesized by a number of approaches, e.g. Ozaki et [[at]] al., Nucleic Acids Research, 20:5205-5214 (1992); Agarwal et [[at]] al., Nucleic Acids Research, 18:5419-5423 (1990); or the like. The oligonucleotides of the invention may be conveniently synthesized on an automated DNA synthesizer, e.g. an Applied Biosystems, Inc. Foster City, Calif.) model 392 or 394 DNA/RNA Synthesizer, using standard chemistries, such as phosphoramidite chemistry, e.g. disclosed in the following references: Beaucage and Iyer, Tetrahedron, 48:2223-2311 (1992); Molko et al, U.S. Pat. No. 4,980,460; Koster et al, U.S. Pat. No. 4,725,677; Caruthers et al, U.S. Pat. Nos. 4,415,732; 4,458,066; and 4,973,679; and the like. Alternative chemistries, e.g. resulting in non-natural backbone groups, such as phosphorothioate, phosphoramidate, and the like, may also be employed provided that the hybridization efficiencies of the resulting oligonucleotides and/or cleavage efficiency of the exonuclease employed are not adversely affected. Preferably, the oligonucleotide is in the range of 20-100 nucleotides in length. More preferably, the oligonucleotide is in the range of 20-85 nucleotides in length. The precise sequence and length of an oligonucleotide of the invention depends in part on the nature of the target polynucleotide to which it binds. The binding location and length may be varied to achieve appropriate annealing and melting properties for a particular embodiment. Guidance for making design choices can be found in many of the above-cited references describing the ~~"Taqman"~~ "Taqman®," type of assays. One method for synthesizing oligonucleotides on a modified solid support is described in U.S. Pat. No. 4,458,066. It is also possible to use a primer that has been isolated from a biological source (such as a restriction endonuclease digest of cloned genomic DNA).

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 34, line 28, with the following amended paragraph:

Any reverse transcriptase may be used in the practice of the invention, including, but not limited to, ~~Superscript RTII~~ SuperScript® RTII (optionally RNase H minus), "regular" MMLV-RT (with intrinsic RNaseH activity), AMV RT, or combinations thereof.